

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 040937Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6155

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0437

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, CH

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PARACEL DISPUTE

REF: STATE 19749

1. AS IN SINGAPORE, ENGLISH AND MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS GAVE ONLY  
MODERATE ATTENTION TO CHINESE-SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE OVER  
PARACELS BUT CHINESE PRESS GAVE STORY FULL COVERAGE. GOM HAS  
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NOT RPT NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON INCIDENT. GOVERNMENT-

INFLUENCED KL STRAITS TIMES IN JAN 28 EDITORIAL IN BROADER CONTEXT OF "VIETNAM GLOOM" COMMENT THAT, WHILE GVN QUOTE COULD HARDLY HAVE HOPED SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION. FIGHTING IN PARACELS AND DISPUTE OVER SOVEREIGNTY OBVIOUSLY SHOULD BE MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE WORLD BODY. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: GOM AND POLICICALLY AWARE MALAYSIANS PROBABLY NONPLUSSED BY ARMED ENFORCEMENT PRC CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY PARACELS, BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUING FEAR OF CHINESE EXPANSIONISM. (ON OTHER HAND, MFA UNDERSECRETARY TALALLA HAS SUGGESTED GVN PROVOKED INCIDENT BY HARRASSING CHINESE FISHERMEN, IMPLYING PRC HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO REACT AS IT DID.) HEIGHTENED FEAR OF CHINA NOT LIKELY DETER GOM EFFORTS OBTAIN AGREEMENT WITH PEKING FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT RATHER TO REINFORCE GOM'S TENDENCY TO SEEK ACCOMODATION. EDITORIAL DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE SECURITY COUNCIL TO AT LEAST CONSIDER THIS ISSUE IS IN LINE WITH MALAYSIAN DESIRE FOR SOME FORM OF MULTI-NATIONAL MORAL FORCE TO INHIBIT AGRESSION AND USE OF COERCION AGAINST SMALLER COUNTRIES, E.G. NEUTRALIZATION GUARANTEES. IN THIS CONTEXT, US ATTITUDE LIKELY TO HAVE CAUSED GOM MORE WORRY THAN PLEASURE SINCE IT REINFORCES FEELING IN MINDS SOME LEADERS THAT GREAT POWERS WILLING TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON AVOIDANCE MAJOR WARS AT EXPENSE OF SMALLER COUNTRIES.

CHESLAW

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY OCCUPATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, ISLAND CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** rowelle0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1974KUALA00437  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALAYSIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PARACEL DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MY, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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